



ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT FUND

American Baptist Churches USA has continued to receive monetary gifts from a generous donor – these gifts fund the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant. The donor’s primary wish to help ameliorate poverty leads us to award the funds to ministries which address “housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate.”

To be eligible for funds, ministries must have a direct relationship with American Baptist Churches. Awards from the fund have been disbursed twice a year, in April and in October. In 2017 this will change to one cycle per year, in the fall. The maximum amount that will be given to any ministry will be \$5,000 per disbursement. Each ministry is eligible to receive a grant once every 24 months.

In the Spring 2016 Grant cycle, 74 applicants received funding ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, with a total of \$100,300 awarded for the period. In Fall 2016, 34 applicants received awards ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, with a total of \$44,210 awarded for this period.

Some of the 2016 awards were given to: provide weekend meals furnished for children receiving free or reduced cost meals at their schools; offer free transportation for homeless individuals or families, ex-offenders or people in crisis; purchase mattresses for people in need who lack bedding; provide school supplies for orphaned children; provide payment of utilities and provision of food for families in need; purchase beds, kitchen tables and chairs for disadvantaged households; offer retreat support for women survivors of human trafficking and sexual violence; provide security deposits for homeless individuals now ready to move into their own residences; and many more.

Account information:

- Gifts received in the first nine months of 2016 - \$26,486.73, compared to \$217,548.70 in 2015.
- Account balance as of October 20, 2016 - \$18,450.95.
- Grant checks are made payable to churches, not individuals.
- ABCUSA takes 10% for administrative fee.
- Beginning in 2017, ministries can apply only once every 24 months.
- In 2016 funds distributed ranged from \$3,000 to \$500.